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ART 34 ADT

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless terminal (30) having a terminal interface (32), characterized in that the wireless terminal (30) includes a smart card application host (34) and also a smart card router (33), the smart card router (33) responsive to radiofrequency (RF) communication signal (RF in air) issuing from a contactless smart card reader (35), for demodulating the RF communication signal (RF in air) and providing either a demodulated communication traffic signal (S_{in}) routed to the smart card application host (34) or a demodulated communication traffic signal (U_{in}) routed to the terminal interface (32), the routing determined based on information conveyed by the RF communication signal (RF in air).
2. A wireless terminal as in claim 1, wherein the smart card application host (34) is selected from the group consisting of a contact smart card, a microcontroller residing in the wireless terminal (30), and a security component of the wireless terminal (30).
3. A wireless terminal (30) as in claim 1, further characterized in that the smart card router (33) is also responsive to unmodulated communication traffic (S_{out}) provided by the smart card application host (34) and is responsive to unmodulated communication traffic (U_{out}) provided by the terminal interface (32), and in response to either provides a modulated communication traffic signal (RF in air) for transmission to the contactless smart card reader (35).
4. A wireless terminal (30) as in claim 3, wherein the smart card router (32) comprises a card access module and router (33a), a modulator/ demodulator (33b), an RF antenna (33c), and a card reader chip (33d), wherein the card access module

and router (33a) is coupled to the smart card application host (34) via the card reader chip (33d) and is coupled to the terminal interface (32) and is also coupled to the RF antenna (33c) via the modulator/ demodulator (33b), the RF antenna (33c) in turn being radiatively coupled to the ticketing system (31).

5. A wireless terminal (30) as in claim 1, further characterized in that the smart card router (33) provides logical channels (Ch1 Ch2) for communication with different applications (34-1 34-2) hosted by the smart card application host (34).

6. A wireless terminal (30) as in claim 1, further characterized in that in starting communications with the contactless smart card reader (35), the wireless terminal (30) reports RF parameter messages in a format understandable to the contactless smart card reader (35) so as to enable the communications.

7. The wireless terminal (30) as in claim 6, wherein the RF parameters so reported indicate proprietary capabilities of the smart card application host (34).

8. The wireless terminal (30) as in claim 6, wherein the RF parameters are derived from data provided by an answer-to-reset message issued by the smart card application host (34).

9. A method for use by a wireless terminal (30) in communicating with a contactless smart card reader (35), the wireless terminal including a smart card application host (34) hosting at least one smart card application (34-1 34-2), the method characterized by:

a step (61) of receiving from the contactless smart card reader (35) a radiofrequency (RF) communication signal pertinent to the at least one smart card application;

a step (62) of examining the received communication signal to determine where to route it, including possibly routing the communication signal to the at least one smart card application (34-1 34-2) or to a terminal interface (32) of the wireless terminal (30) or to an RF antenna (33c) for radiative transmission to a system (31a 31b) related to the at least one smart card application; and

a step (63) of routing the communication signal to the destination so determined.

10. A method as in claim 9, wherein the smart card application host (34) is selected from the group consisting of a contact smart card, a microcontroller residing in the wireless terminal (30), and a security component of the wireless terminal (30).

11. A method as in claim 9, further characterized in that in routing the communication signal, logical channels (Ch1 Ch2) are used for communication with different applications (34-1 34-2) hosted by the smart card application host (34).

12. A method as in claim 9, further characterized in that in starting communications with the contactless smart card reader (35), the wireless terminal (30) reports RF parameter messages in a format understandable to the contactless smart card reader (35) so as to enable the communications.

13. A method as in claim 12, wherein the RF parameters so reported indicate proprietary capabilities of the smart card application host (34).

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14. A method as in claim 12, wherein the RF parameters are derived from data provided by an answer-to-reset message issued by the smart card application host (34).